

# The Historacle

The Official Newsletter of the

## Talent Historical Society

"Remember the days of old; consider the generations long past."

206 East Main, Suite C • P.O. Box 582 • Talent, Oregon 97540 • 541/512-8838

September 2002



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The annual meeting of the Talent Historical Society membership will convene on November 10 at 2:00 p.m. at the Talent Community Center. All members are encouraged to come if at all possible. A short business meeting will bring you a report of our activities of the past year and board positions will be renewed or filled.

"We Pine For Murder," a Chautauqua program will be presented by Andrew Giarelli, of the English Department, Portland State University. A reporter for the West's wildest newspaper, the Virginia City, Nevada, *Territorial Enterprise*, noted the public's longings for sensationalism after a slow night in 1836: "We pine for murder—these fistfights are of no consequence to anybody." That reporter would soon byline his stories as Mark Twain, embarking on a notorious journalistic career in which facts never got in the way of a good story.

The young Twain—dubbed by a San Francisco paper as "the wild humorist of the Sage Brush Hills"—thrived on frontier sensationalism. Wading through the outlandish reportage of Twain and his contemporaries illustrates how these nineteenth-century Western newspaper humorists used tall tales, pseudo-scientific hoaxes, and legendary characters to give the public what it still pretends it doesn't really want.

Come on out for a Sunday afternoon of fun and in support of your historical society. Refreshments will be served.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

October 1 is the renewal date for all memberships now. A notices will soon be appearing in your mailbox. Some of you, due to an error in billing last year, are paid up for another year. If your membership is due to be renewed, you will get a notice.

## THS EXPANSION UPDATE

On August 28 the City of Talent hosted a Civic Center planning meeting to which they invited Talent businesses and other interested entities, including the THS, to discuss plans for a comprehensive civic center that will include City Hall, Talent Historical Society, the library, and possibly some other entities.

Lynn Newbry, Ralph Hunkins, and Alice Ray represented THS at the meeting. We were pleased to hear several people there state that they felt that THS should eventually take full possession of the Talent Community Center building when the proposed Civic Center is completed. This was encouraging to us, to know that others in the community are thinking about us and know that we need larger quarters.

This comprehensive plan will take several years to implement, but as long as we have a goal to aim for, we can know how to plan for the future. Right now, we have decided to be content with what we have, but try to upgrade the office furniture to something more functional and attractive, and to generally try to make the most of the space we have.

# ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Statistics for 1902 The year is 1902, one hundred years ago...what a difference a century makes. Here are the U.S. statistics for 1902:



- The average life expectancy in the US was forty-seven (47).
- Only 14 Percent of the homes in the US had a bathtub.
- Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
- A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.
- There were only 8,000 cars in the US and only 144 miles of paved roads.
- The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
- Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union.
- The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.
- The average wage in the US was 22 cents an hour.
- The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year. A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
- More than 95 percent of all births in the US took place at home.
- Ninety percent of all US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as "substandard."
- Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.
- Most women only washed their hair once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
- The five leading causes of death in the US were:
  1. Pneumonia and influenza
  2. Tuberculosis
  3. Diarrhea
  4. Heart disease
  5. Stroke
- Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason.
- The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.
- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada was 30.
- Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.
- There were no Mother's Day or Father's Day.
- One in ten US adults couldn't read or write.
- Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and! is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."
- Eighteen percent of households in the US had at least one full-time servant or domestic.

THS has a small video rental library in our Sales Shoppe. We only have a few titles now, but they are all very interesting videos. If you have any videos that have a history theme that you're tired of and would like to donate to our library, we'd really appreciate it. Or you can make a cash donation earmarked "Videos for Library." Come in and see what we have. Rental fees are just \$1.50 for 3 days. Non-members pay \$2.00.

## BRIC-A-BRAC

### F eatured item from the THS Sales Shoppe.



Among the many books we have for sale in the gift shop is one titled "Knights of the Whip", by Gary Meier. This book tells about stagecoach days in Oregon and California. Here's an excerpt, a quote from Tom Burnett, an "Oregon jehu," "knight of the whip," aka stagecoach driver: "I was first held up on August 26, 1884, on a beautiful moonlight night. About a mile north of Boonville, California, as I was driving between two large oak trees, two men stepped into the road. One of them said, 'Throw up your hands.' Naturally I couldn't while driving six spirited horses, so I pulled my horses to a stop. One of the men who had a shotgun said, 'Throw out your treasure chest.' I threw out the Wells, Fargo box. The other man who had a six-shooter said to my passengers, 'Pile out and line up with your hands up beside the stage.'"

Come on in and buy the book for just \$25.00, to learn the outcome of that holdup.

### Aloha

*In Hawaiian, Aloha is a greeting of both hello and farewell. Hence, it is appropriate for these announcements.*

THS welcomed some new members into the Society in the past couple of months. They are: **Fred Berger, Chalao Hirst, Ruddy & Marilyn Havill, and Elizabeth Hall.**

Marian Angele, Museum Director for the past three years, has resigned and taken a one-year teaching contract in Taiwan. While we are excited with her for this new adventure, we miss her at the museum.

Alice Ray, Office Manager, is acting as Interim Director while the Board accepts applications for a new director.

Richard Thomas "Rick" Read, 48, Forest Grove, died May 30, 2002, in a climbing accident on Mt. Hood. Mr. Read held a number of positions in the museum field in his professional life, including associate manager of the Oregon Heritage Commission and vice president of the Oregon Museums Association.

We are considering scheduling a few sightseeing trips for the THS membership who live in the Rogue Valley, but would like to know whether or not there is enough interest before we get serious about renting vans and scheduling trips. A few places we could go in one easy day are: Klamath Falls museums/Ft. Klamath; Yreka museum, historic old town, historic homes tour; Applegate Trail Museum at Sunny Valley. If there is enough interest in longer, 2-day trips there are lots of places to explore both in Oregon and No. California. If you're interested, please let us know by phone, visit, note, or by clipping out the box on the right and mailing it to THS.

### LOOKING BACK...

On August 4 Chautauqua lecturer Tom Nash gave his program on the WPA in Oregon. Drawing from extensive records that were created by WPA workers in the 30s and 40s, Nash told of the lives of early pioneers in Oregon. Humorous, nostalgic and informative, the program was appreciated by all who came out.

The Talent Harvest Festival 2002 is just a memory now, and hopefully a happy memory for those who attended. Thanks to all who came by to say hi and patronize our Sales Shoppe.

Does anyone have any photos of early settlers, former businesses, homes, or anything pertaining to Talent before 1960? If so, would you please share with THS?? Bring in the photos to the museum so we can take a digital photograph of your photo. Or, if you prefer, call to make an appointment for one of us to come to your home to copy your photo(s). This process in no way damages your original photo. Thank you!

- Yes! I'm interested in going on a museum tour. Send more information, please.
- Maybe, I'd have to know more about it.
- No, sorry, not interested.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# TALENT BIOGRAPHIES

## JACOB WAGNER—ONE OF THE FIRST

*Editor's Note: The following material has been extracted from a much larger biography which was printed in the Portrait and Biographical Record of Western Oregon, (Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1904)*

Jacob Wagner is the man after whom Wagner Butte and Wagner Creek are named. His farm was located at the present site of Talent, and the first fortification in the valley was on his property, Fort Wagner, the area soon called Wagner Crossing.

Occupying a place of prominence in the vast pioneer army of brave and fearless men that left homes in the civilized east, crossed the barren desert, and invaded the Rogue River Valley when it was a well nigh primeval waste, was Jacob Wagner, late of Ashland, and for nearly a half century one of Jackson County's most highly respected and esteemed citizens. ...

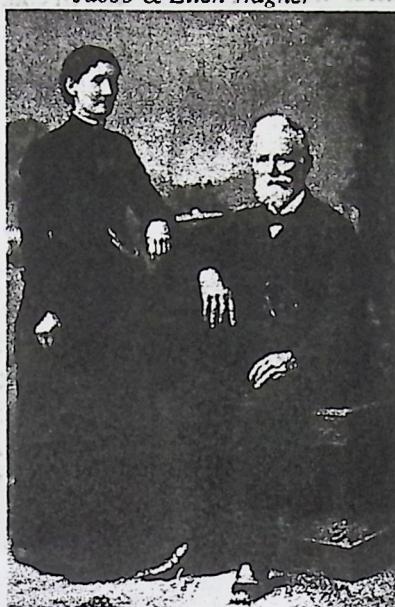
A son of John Wagner, [Jacob Wagner] was born September 26, 1820 in Dayton County, Ohio, and died January 4, 1900 at his home in Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon.

Philip Wagner, Mr. Wagner's paternal grandfather, was born and bred in Germany. with two of his brothers, Peter and John, he emigrated to America in colonial days. Peter and John were soon lost track of, but Philip Wagner settled in Rockingham county, Virginia, where he married Margaret Andrew. He subsequently removed his family to Pennsylvania, going thence to Montgomery county, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life.

[Jacob's father, John Wagner settled permanently in Ohio] where he was engaged during his active life in agricultural pursuits. On April 17, 1806 John married Esther Crull, by whom he had eleven children, two of whom came to Oregon].

Reared on the homestead in Ohio, Jacob Wagner [the seventh child] attended the district school when young, and as a boy and youth was trained to agricultural pursuits. Before attaining his majority, he turned his footsteps westward, going first to Indiana, where he worked as a farm laborer. Migrating to Iowa, he was employed in carpentering and building in

Louisa county for a number of years. In 1850, while yet unmarried [at age 30], he started across the plains with an ox-team train, and after a tedious journey of six months arrived at Oregon City, where he had a severe attack of mountain fever, narrowly escaping death. Subsequently, going to Astoria, he looked over the country in the vicinity of the Columbia River, but no especially pleased with the outlook, he returned to Oregon City, where he worked at the carpenter's trade for a few months. Going overland to Siskiyou County, California in the spring of 1851, he was employed in mining in the Yreka district for about a year, his experiences being decidedly varied.



*Jacob & Ellen Wagner*

**Continued on page 5**

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Talent Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 582 / 206 E. Main Street  
Talent Community Center • Talent, Oregon 97540**

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Comments & letters may be sent to the Editor, **The Historacle**, by mail or by e-mail [talenthistory@aol.com](mailto:talenthistory@aol.com). Members of the Society receive **The Historacle** free with membership.

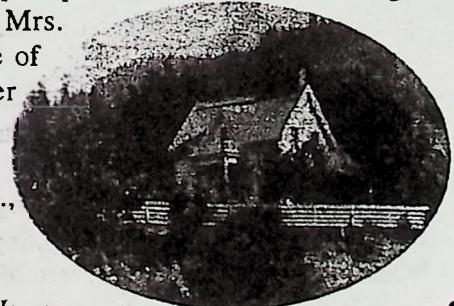
Settling in the Rogue River Valley, Oregon, in the spring of 1852, Mr. Wagner took up a donation land claim of 320 acres on the little stream that was subsequently named in his honor, Wagner Creek. On this tract of land, lying about five miles north of Ashland, at the site of the present ... Talent [Originally called Wagner Crossing], he was successfully engaged in farming and stockraising for ten years. He took an active part in subduing the Indians in the troubles of 1853, when Fort Wagner was built on his farm as a rendezvous for his family and neighbors. [There is currently a stone placed on the west side of Talent Avenue about 200 feet north of Wagner Creek which commemorates the location of Fort Wagner.] On November 10, 1855, he enlisted in Company D, Second Oregon Mounted Volunteers, and served under Colonel Williams until receiving his honorable discharge from the army, May 15, 1856. He was brave and fearless, working the fields oftentimes with his gun at hand, and had several narrow escapes from the...[warring Indians] at one time being saved from death by the kindly interception of some Indians whom he had befriended.

In 1857 Mr. Wagner bought an interest in the Ashland Flour Mills, but continued his farming. In 1858 he went east by way of the Isthmus [of Panama] and in the fall of 1860 took unto himself a wife. Sailing with his bride from New York, he came by way of Panama to Red Bluff, California, thence by stage to Fort Wagner, where he continued the improvement of his farm. Moving to Ashland in 1862, Mr. Wagner assumed the management of the Ashland Mills, of which he had control for the ensuing twenty-six years, the plant being the only flour mill in the Rogue River Valley for several years. He was in partnership with various persons, but was most of the time the principal owner and business manager, being associated with E. K. Anderson, Capt. John McCall, W. H. Atkinson, and others. At the same time, Mr. Wagner, who was a man of great business enterprise and ability, was interested in the Ashland Woolen Mills, in mining property, and in mercantile pursuits, and was, without doubt, one of the best known men in Southern Oregon and Northern California, becoming acquainted with farmers through his wheat buying and commission men through whom he sold flour. On account of failing health, he sold the Ashland Mills in 1884, and subsequently brought the Soda Spring Ranch, lying ten miles southeast of Ashland, and removed there, taking charge of the hotel. He engaged in the stock business while there, and

largely developed the fine spring on the ranch. His hotel was the stage station on that route, and was a most popular house of entertainment. The waters of the spring were found rich in mineral properties, and are now in charge of Mr. Wagner's son, J. M. Wagner, who bottles it, and sells it under the name of Siskiyou mineral water. Returning to Ashland in 1887, Mr. Wagner lived retired from active pursuits until his death [in 1900]...

Of the union of Mr. and Mrs. Wagner seven children were born: Nettie, a graduate of Ashland Academy, is now the wife of W. H. Leeds, who was state printer from 1894 until 1902, and is now a resident of San Diego, California; John Marshall, who was educated at the University of Oregon, and is now proprietor of the Siskiyou Mineral Water Company, married Anna Anderson; Fred D., also educated at the University of Oregon, is editor and proprietor of the Ashland Tidings; Mabel E., a graduate of Ashland High School, is the wife of A. E. Kinney, a hardware merchant in Redding, California; Ella died at the age of eight years; Jessie, who completed her early education at the state normal school, is the wife of T. W. Miles, a prominent educator of Bakersfield, California; and J. Ernest died at the age of three and one-half years.

In public affairs, Mr. Wagner took a keen and intelligent interest, and served his fellowmen in many positions of trust and responsibility. In 1862 he was elected to the Oregon State Senate, and during his term of four years, attended three sessions of the legislature, one being the special session called to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. He was subsequently county commissioner for Jackson County, serving one or more terms....He was a charter member, and at the time of his death the oldest member of Ashland Lodge No. 23, A. F. & A. M.; and was a member, and ex-president of the Jackson County Pioneer Society. A man of deep religious convictions, he was a consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, to which Mrs. Wagner also belongs. Mrs. Wagner is one of the charter members of Alpha Chapter No. 1, O. E. S., of Ashland.



Jacob Wagner Home

# MY, HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

It is said that the more things change, the more they stay the same. Now as most of you know, one of the things that has not changed since the creation of minor principalities is taxes...princes taxed, kings taxed, counties taxed, and even pirates levied tribute, which was one of the reasons the Marines were originally founded, to stop the tribute demanded by Tripoli pirates in the Mediterranean. However, consider this 1881 tax assessment for one Anderson Hugh Brown:

Tax assessor's certificate for the year 1881 for A.H. Brown:

558 acres of land	\$2,000
Merchandise & etc.	\$270
Household furniture	\$100
Horses, 6	\$240
Cattle, 5	\$50
Sheep, 245	\$310
Swine, 10	\$20

One can certainly tell that assessments have changed dramatically. Note that the Brown house itself was not assessed, only its contents. Note, too, that the value of a horse was \$24 and the value of a cow was \$10. Perhaps that is the reason that today, people eat beefsteak instead of horsesteak...Horse meat was two and half times more costly!

## EARLY PIONEER TRAVELERS RECORD IMPRESSIONS OF BEAR CREEK VALLEY

PETER SKENE OGDEN, HUDSON BAY EXPLORER

"Following a small stream for three miles, I encamped...All here looks like summer...the oaks here being nearly double the size of any I have seen this season...this is certainly fine country and probably no climate in any country equal to it. The Indians inform us the winter is over and I am almost inclined to believe them from the singing of Birds of all kinds, grass green and at it's full growth....

{Written in his journal, in the mild February of 1827. Ogden entered the valley from the south near Pilot Rock.}

LINDSAY APPLEGATE

"1846--On the morning of June 29, we [the Southern Road Exploring Party] passed over a low range of hills [the arm of Blackwell Hill], from the summit of which we had a splendid view of the Rogue River Valley. It seemed like a great meadow, interspersed with groves of oaks....All day long we traveled over rich black soil covered with rank grass, clover, and peavine, and at night encamped...on the stream now known as Emigrant Creek, near the foot of the Siskiyou Mountains."

(Applegate was one of the men who were seeking a southern route to Oregon that would avoid the Columbia River route. The first wagon over what now is called the Applegate Trail traversed the route they discovered in 1846, the year this passage was written.)

## ROGUE VALLEY NAME ORIGINS

Ashland Creek was originally called Mill Creek because of the location of the Ashland Flouring Mills located where now Lithia Park meets the Ashland Plaza.

Eagle Mill Road was named after a flour mill called Eagle Mills began operation of the east side of Bear Creek in 1855.

In 1861, Ashland was called Ashland Mills and had its own post office. Ashland actually had two mills--a flour mill (1854) and a sawmill (1852). Later a woolen mill was added.

# ASHLAND TIDINGS, 1909

## TALENT PIONEERS INSTRUMENTAL IN EARLY FLOUR PRODUCTION (CONT.)

The summer edition of the Historical contained the first part of this speech by the Judge C. B. Watson about the old flour mill in Ashland. This is a continuation of that speech given in 1909 to an audience at the Chautauqua building, now the concrete shell around the outdoor Shakespeare Festival Theatre.

In those days...there were no millionaires. The fact of common poverty was a bond of friendship and unity. Money was scarce and running the mill was expensive. People rapidly flocked to the mines, and located farms, and the demands for flour increased until this old mill was the busiest place in the valleys of Southern Oregon.

During the year of 1854, E. K. Anderson and J. F. Anderson traded wheat for a one-fourth interest in the mill which now became the property of A. D. Helman and the Anderson Brothers. The power was not sufficient and various devices in the way of wheels were resorted to. These were not satisfactory and E. K. Anderson went to San Francisco for the irons to build an overshot wheel, which when built, gave the necessary power. While at San Francisco, he bought a pair of French burrs and had the irons for the wheel and the burrs shipped by schooner to Scottsburg on the Umpqua river and returning, he on horseback and two young men with an ox team went to Scottsburg for the machinery and burrs. Anderson reached Ashland on his return ahead of the team, which after reaching the north bank of Rogue River went into camp. That night the Indians attacked them, run off the oxen and scattered the two men. Notice of the incident reached Ashland and Anderson at once went to the rescue. He found the cattle on Evans creek, recovered the wagon and freight and brought it on here. The overshot wheel was constructed and was a success, still operating the old mill within the memory of many of us who came later, in fact until the mill was purchased by W. J. Virgin in 1891.

In 1855 E. K. Anderson traded his interest in the mill to his brother Firman, for his brother's interest in the farm. Firman Anderson sold to A.D. Helman. There have been many changes in the ownership of the mill and its record is not free from judgments, sheriff's deeds, mortgages, etc. In 1857 James H. Russell came into part ownership by purchase from Helman. John T. Savery and Jacob Wagner became owners in the mill in 1858. One W. W. Fouler came into part ownership through a sheriff's deed in 1858 and sold his interest to J. M. McCall in 1859. Jacob Wagner sold and interest to J. M. McCall in December, 1859. In July, 1860, James H. Russell sold to Jacob Wagner and W. W. Fouler, certain interests. In 1861 John McCall sold a one-fourth interest to Jacob Wagner, and in 1865 a further interest to C. K. Klum. In 1867 Jacob Wagner and C. K. Klum sold an interest to A. G. Rockfellow. In 1868 C. K. Klum sold to J. M. McCall. In 1873 McCall sold to E. K. Anderson. In 1874 A. G. Rockfellow sold a one-third interest to Heaton Fox and W. H. Atkinson. In 1876 Fox and Atkinson sold to Jacob Wagner and E. K. Anderson. In 1879 Jacob Wagner and E. K. Anderson sold an interest to W. H. Atkinson. In 1881 Atkinson sold back to Anderson and in 1883 Anderson sold a two-thirds interest to Jacob Wagner. In 1884 Jacob Wagner sold to Fordyce Roper and then for the first time in its history no pioneer was interested in the mill as an owner. From 1858 to 1884 Jacob Wagner was continuously an owner in the mill and at times sole owner. In 1891 Fordyce Roper sold to W. E. Jacobs and W. J. Virgin. In 1895 W. E. Jacobs sold his interest to J. E. Pelton and R. P. Neil and in 1898 Pelton sold his interest to Neil and in 1899 Neil sold his interest to W. J. Virgin. This gave the whole title to Virgin. On June 27, 1906, Virgin deeded the mill, the land on which it stood, the water rights and all appurtenances to the city of Ashland and on the 17th day of December, 1908, the people of Ashland by a vote of more than five to one dedicated the old mill site forever for a city park. [Ed. note: Thus beginning the establishment of Lithia Park.]

Mr. E. K. Anderson tells me that at one time in 1855 Mr. C. C. Beekman, then carrying express between Jacksonville and Yreka, stopped at the mill and said he was authorized on behalf of Rogers Bros. of Yreka

to offer 13 cents a pound for 75,009 pound of flour. He and A. O. Helman then owned the mill and were in great distress for money, but after considering the matter refused to take less than 15 cents. Rogers Bros. declined to pay so much. Helman and Anderson then paid four cents a pound to have the flour packed over to Yreka; they paid storage all winter and sold for eight cents the next summer. It was not an unusual thing to see fifty or a hundred Indians around the old mill with their pack ponies taking cargo for the Klamath country.

...Monuments are built to the memories of loved ones that pass. Why not build, on the site of the old mill, a monument dedicated to the pioneers as suggested above? Such a monument would have an appropriate beauty in the beautiful park and would always commemorate the events which you are now here to celebrate. In times to come, long after the pioneers are all gone and several succeeding generations have passed, this beautiful monument would stand guard over this historic spot with its unparalleled environment and hand out its fragment of history through the centuries to come. Ed. note: Was the monument ever erected?

Ashland Tidings, Ashland, OR Thursday, August 26, 1909

## THE PENITENTIARY SCANDAL-CIRCA 1903-1909

Editor's Note: The following news article appeared in the Roseburg Plaindealer and was published during the administration of Governor George Chamberlain, who served as governor of the state of Oregon from 1903 to 1909.

The facts of the case are: A woman who has been in the penitentiary for two and a half years is in a delicate condition and she charges the parentage upon the assistant warden. The warden tries to throw the blame on a trusty who escaped or was allowed to escape about ten days ago from the penitentiary. Governor Chamberlain made an investigation into the affair and suspended the assistant warden and the druggist who knew the woman's condition and did not report the same. The governor was assisted in his investigation by Warden Lee, but it seems to the PLAINDEALER that with such business going on the warden was either very blind to what was going on or that he did not keep posted regarding affairs at the penitentiary, and in either event he should be removed for the offense of omission or winking at the commission. Such an affair is a disgrace to the state and the man guilty of such a damnable outrage upon the state at large, should be, by a bill passed by the Legislature, disenfranchised for life as a citizen of Oregon. What is there in store for the fruit of such illicit intercourse if it should be born into the world.

Can the state afford to have a child, a future citizen, born into the penitentiary? Can the state, after investigation and belief as to the parentage of the child, allow fornication or adultery to go unpunished if evidence in this case can be established upon the testimony of the druggist and the confession of the woman herself? Can the state allow the belief that the trusty was allowed to escape from the penitentiary in order to be the "scape goat" for a trusted official?

There is one way out of the difficulty so far as the future child and the unfortunate woman is concerned, and that is to parole her out of the penitentiary and force the father of the child to marry her or put him in the penitentiary to fill out her unexpired term, as a state sacrifice, for the woman, convict though she is, is a far better woman than the man is a man. The child should not be allowed to be born in the penitentiary for the state has no right to be a party to inflict a future curse upon the child under any consideration.

Note: This news article was obviously written before journalists deliberately separated news items from editorial comment on the events covered in news stories; such separation generally is today's journalistic practice.



## DOWNSTREAM CALENDAR

Talent Historical Society Museum,  
Talent Community Center.

Museum Open hours:  
Mon.—Sat. 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

**THS Board Meeting, 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:00 p.m. at the Talent Public Library**

Members and general public invited to attend.

Sept. 24 Oct. 29 Nov. 26

Dec. No meeting

**JCHMA Meeting, 2nd Thursday of each month, 10 a.m. – Noon. Location varies.**

Oct. 10 Nov. 14 Dec. 12

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 10, 2:00 p.m., Talent Community Center

Business meeting; program, "We Pine for Murder" by Andrew Giarelli



### MORE ROGUE VALLEY NAME ORIGINS

Evans Creek, at the city of Rogue River, was named after Davis Evans who built a ferry for travelers to cross the Rogue River at the mouth of that creek in the spring of 1851.

Jacksonville's first name was Table Rock City circa 1852.

The original settlement at what is now Medford was called Chaparral City. The railroad's new town was named Medford by David Loring, the Oregon and California Railroad's civil engineer. The disgruntled citizens of Jacksonville, the county seat and the major town in the valley, called it Mudville, or Rabbitville.

Vilas Road is named after the Vilas family who came to the Rogue River valley from Wisconsin in 1907 to enter the fruit business. Unlike others who also took a flyer on fruit, the Vilas family orchards thrived.

## OVERHEARD

*This is excerpted from a taped interview with Agnes Pilgrim, Takelma, interviewed by Michael O'Rourke:*

**Agnes:** We had cattle, we even had some longhorns. And my mother, the boys would go clear up to White Swan, Washington and get horses, wild horses, and they'd bring them back and my mother would break horses. She never was mean, or hit them or anything, but she had a way with breaking horses that could break horses that men couldn't break them.

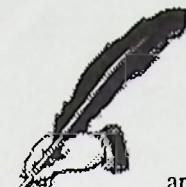
**Michael:** Do you have any recollection of watching her break horses?

**Agnes:** She'd walk them. She'd have them, a stake out here and walk them around and around and talk to them in her own language and talk to them, and stroked them. And first I remember her taking and putting just a saddle blanket on it and patting it and talking to the horse, you know, and rubbing them down and talking to them like, probably saying, "This is all right, this is okay," that type of thing. And walking them around and around and letting them get used to that. ... So then she would, after getting them used to that, then she'd put a bridle on, and she talked to them all the time she'd be doing that, too. Let them pull their head down so she could reach, cause she was only five foot three. Bring their head down and put the bridle on, then she'd hang on the reins of that, then she'd go around again, keep walking them around, let them get used to that bridle. Later on, she would take the blanket off and then she'd get up to a big block and slowly just stand there. Then walk around and finally she'd slowly bring herself on it, have it to stop and bring herself with a lot of her weight on the horse. I remember her doing that when, I don't know how old I was, but maybe six or seven, watching her do that and I would be scared for her because they were monstrous to me, a little person. Finally she'd get up on that horse and she'd just let it wander and just sit there for awhile and not even move, and keep rubbing it, talking to it, rubbing it some more, patting it, just bareback.

**Michael:** The horses, your brothers go and get them wild somewhere?

**Agnes:** Way up in White Swan, Washington. She'd pick the ones that she'd want and she could, she had one horse she called literally and he was really a swift horse, a pretty horse. With all her horses though, she could whistle, she could whistle beautifully. And she'd whistle many songs long time ago, like "Over the Waves," and all kinds of old songs. I can't remember some right now. But she loved to whistle. She taught these horses through whistle, when she'd whistle, boy here they'd come, their manes just a-flying, their tails straight out, just a-coming. She didn't have to go looking for them, she'd just whistle. It was just amazing how she'd bring those horses.

## EDITORIAL



# UNIVERSITY STORES BLM NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACT CONNECTION; AIDS RESEARCH

Stored at the Southern Oregon University

Anthropology Department are thousands of Native American artifacts—

arrow heads, throwing spear points, and some more recent historical objects—broken porcelain, cans, etc. from both Caucasian and Chinese mining sites. All

of these objects are part of the historical materials found at Bureau of Land Management Medford district archeological sites in Southern Oregon.

A former assistant professor of anthropology at SOU, Ted Geobel and BLM archeologist Kate Winthrop, who worked in Southern Oregon for some twenty years, both privately and as a BLM employee, set up the collection, to aid research into Native American occupancy of Southern Oregon. Material from the Marial and Stratton Creek sites, dating back some 8,000 to 9,000 years are included in the collection, sites that were occupied as recently as a couple of hundred years ago.

Some of the artifacts come from the Shady Cove area, and relate to a period on the Upper Rogue about which little is known. Apparently about 2000 to 2500 years ago, very few habitations are found in that area. The reason for the occupational hiatuses not yet known.

Some of the material objects are arrowheads, and some from throwing spears as bow and arrow technology did not arrive in the Southern Oregon area until about 1500 to 2000 years ago. The throwing spear, which used a throwing stick and a weight to increase speed and penetrating force, used larger and heavier points. Finds still being secured from BLM areas are now housed at Southern Oregon University in the collection.

"One of the biggest challenges [faced by the Medford District] is the problem of looting," Winthrop is recorded as saying. "Most people now know it's against the law to dig at a cultural site. Digging destroys the arrangement [of the artifacts] that could tell us so much," she pointed out. Winthrop is now working in Maryland where she serves as archaeological liaison between the BLM and the Army Environmental Center. The collection at SOU is her legacy to the history of Southern Oregon.

Under the Archaeological Resources and Protection Act of 1979, which put more teeth into the Antiquities Act of 1906, it is illegal to gather or dig artifacts on federal land without a permit.

Make hay while the sun  
shines... Autumn is coming!



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